

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W
----- 109376

R 110625Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2804

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, ET, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND ETHIOPIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 0512

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAMSONOV ASKED ME APRIL 8 ABOUT CURRENT US POLICY IN ETHIOPIA. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE READ RECENT REPORTS -- WHICH HE INCLINED TO DOUBT -- INDICATING US STILL WOBBLING IN ITS SUPPORT FOR PMAC AND WAS CONSIDERING SUPPORTING ERITREAN SEPARATISM. SOVIET POLICY, HE EXPLAINED, WAS CLEAR-CUT ON ERITREAN ISSUE: THIS WAS INTERNAL MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED POLITICALLY BETWEEN PMAC AND ELF/PLF. SOVIETS FULLY SUPPORTED ADDIS GOVT. AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA.

2. I TOLD HIM US POLICY WAS SAME. I SAID USG HAD RECENTLY RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO PMAC AMMUNITION REQUEST AND HAD SOLD US\$ 7 MILLION AMMO, WHILE ALSO EXPRESSING HOPE THAT POLITICAL SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND TO END ERITREAN FIGHTING. USG DID NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT ERITREAN SEPARATISM.

3. SAMSONOV NOTED THAT PART OF RATIONALE HE HAD HEARD REGARDING USG INTEREST IN SEPARATE ERITREAN STATE WAS (A) US BASE FACILITY AT ASMARA; (B) SMALLER ERITREAN STATE WOULD BE MORE AMENABLE TO US INFLUENCE THAN LARGER ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE, WHILE (V) US COULD IN THAT
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WAY MAINTAIN STRATEGIC POSITION ON RED SEA AND DENY ERITREA TO ARAB

STATES.

4. HE HAD ALSO HEARD REPORTS THAT KING FAISAL HAD GIVEN ELF/PLF
US\$ 200 MILLION IN FINANCIAL AID, AND HAD HEARD THAT ELF/PLF MIGHT
NOW EMPLOY BOTH WHITE MERCENARIES AND US PHANTOMS IN INSURGENCY.

5. I DESCRIBED GRADUAL PHASE OUT OF KAGNEW FACILITY, PAST AND PRESENT
US SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIAN GOVT AND -- IN MY VIEW -- POLITICAL AND
MILITARY ABSURDITY OF EITHER WHITE MERCENARIES OR PHANTOMS FOR ELF.
LIKE MANY OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS, SAG MAY HAVE PROVIDED MONEY FOR
ELF/PLF -- I DIDN'T KNOW -- BUT, IF IT HAD, THEN MONIES WOULD
PROBABLY HAVE BEEN GIVEN MORE FOR TACTICAL ADVANTAGES THAN PRACTICAL
REASONS. I THOUGHT US\$ 200 MILLION TOTALLY UNBELIEVABLE -- BOTH
BECAUSE OF SAG PARSIMONY AND ELF'S ABILITY TO ABSORB FUNDS. HE
SAID HE THOUGHT THE AMOUNT SEEMED QUITE LARGE.
HAMRICK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750128-0038
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750459/aaaaccac.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOGADISCIO 0512
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, ET, UR, (SAMSONOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006